

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MCE-00 ACDA-07 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
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DEPARTMENT FOR L FOR ALDRICH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, PARM, UN, SW
SUBJ: GOS BACKGROUND PAPER ON PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING CONVEN-
TIONAL WEAPONS QUESTION DISCUSSION

1. GOS HEAD DELEGATE TO GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE AMBASSADOR
HANS BLIX CALLED POLCOUNS SEPTEMBER 9 TO REQUEST THAT TEXT OF
MFA BACKGROUND PAPER COVERING DISCUSSION OF CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS QUESTIONS AT 32ND UNGA BE FORWARDED TO ALDRICH. TEXT
FOLLOWS BELOW:

"1. IN ITS CONSENSUS RESOLUTION CONCERNING FOLLOW-UP REGARDING
PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF USE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, THE
DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED THAT CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS
SHOULD BE CONVENED NOT LATER THAN 1979. IT FURTHER URGED THAT
CONSULTATIONS BE UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS
UESTION OF THE 32:ND SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR
THE PURPOSE OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN
PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE. SUCH CONSULTATIONS, AMONG ALL
INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE CONVENED DURING SEPTEMBER/
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OCTOBER 1977 AND SHOULD COVER INTER ALIA THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD SEEK TO ESTABLISH THE
BEST POSSIBLE BASIS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENTS AT THE
CONFERENCE.

"2. THE UN DISARMAMENT DEBATE MAY START TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF
OCTOBER AND GO ON FOR 4-5 WEEKS. TO ALLOW SOME TIME BETWEEN THE

CONSULTATIONS AND THE DISARMAMENT DEBATE IT IS SUGGESTED THAT A CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON WEAPONS SHOULD BE HELD FROM 28-30 SEPTEMBER IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS PREPARATORY ELEMENTS FOR THE 1979 CONFERENCE, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION AND TIMING OF MEETINGS OF A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, AND TO AGREE ON MAIN ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE 1ST COMMITTEE. SHOULD THIS PERIOD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, THE WEEK FROM 10-14 OCTOBER IS SUGGESTED AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

"3. THE MOST CONVENIENT ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE THAT THE UN SECRETARIAT CONVOKED THE CONSULTATION BY A NOTE IN NEW YORK. IN VIEW OF THE LINK TO THE ITEM ON INCENDIARY AND OTHER SPECIFIC CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS OF USE FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS IN THE 1ST COMMITTEE, THIS SHOULD BE A NATURAL TASK FOR THE SECRETARIAT. IF NEED BE, A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE SECRETARIAT COULD BE MADE BY SOME INTERESTED STATES.

"4. INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE CONSULTATIONS MIGHT BE ADDRESSED TO ALL GOVERNMENTS WHICH WERE INVITED TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. THIS WOULD TAKE CARE OF VIETNAM, TWO KOREAS, SWITZERLAND AND CHINA. ALTERNATIVELY THE INVITATIONS MIGHT GO TO MEMBERS OF THE UN ALONE. THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OUGHT TO RESEMBLE THE USUAL KIND OF INFORMAL CONTACTS TAKEN IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ORDER TO PREPARE 1ST COMMITTEE WORK. IT COULD BE OPENED BY THE SECRETARIAT BUT SHOULD ELECT ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OWN CHAIRMAN.

"5. A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE KEPT AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTING METHOD OF THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED. SOME STATES MAY INSIST ON CONSENSUS WHILE OTHERS MAY OPPOSE THIS. PERHAPS SOME METHOD EMPLOYED IN RECENT DISARMAMENT REVIEW MEETINGS COULD BE ENVISAGED.

"6. THE PREP COM MIGHT HOLD TWO-THREE MEETINGS, ONE IN THE PERIOD FEBRUARY/APRIL 1978, THE SECOND IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1978 AND THE THIRD IN MAR/APRIL 1979. THE CONFERENCE ITSELF SHOULD BE HELD IN MAY/JUNE 1979 AND SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED AND ORGANIZED UNDER UN AUSPICES. EACH SESSION OF THE PREP COM MIGHT LAST 5-6 WEEKS. THE COMMITTEE SHOULD DEAL NOT ONLY WITH PROCEDURAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONFERENCE BUT DO ITS UTMOST TO PROMOTE PROGRESS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AS WELL. SUBGROUPS MIGHT BE SET UP FOR THE VARIOUS WEAPON CATEGORIES.

"7. THE COMMITTEE SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR AGREEMENT ON ALL THE WEAPON CATEGORIES DISCUSSED DURING THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT PROGRESS HAS

BEEN MORE TANGIBLE ON SOME ITEMS THAN ON OTHERS. THE QUESTION OF A REVIEW MECHANISM WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN AN APPROPRIATE WAY IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE."

2. BLIX SAID TWO DATES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED FOR CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK AMONG INTERESTED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS PROHIBITION ISSUES. DATES ARE SEPTEMBER 28-30 OR OCTOBER 10-14. DEPENDING UPON WHAT DATES CHOSEN, BLIX WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE DINNER WITH ALDRICH ON EVENING PRECEDING OPENING, I.E., EITHER SEPTEMBER 27 OR OCTOBER 9. PLEASE ADVISE.
PERRY

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